

REMARKS

The specification of the subject U.S. patent application, as constituted by the verified translation of WO 2004/024449 A1, has been cancelled in favor of the concurrently submitted Substitute Specification. A suitable Abstract of the Disclosure has been presented. These changes and additions do not constitute any new matter.

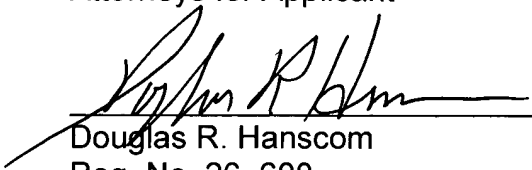
Original claims 1-40 have been canceled. New claims 41-99 have been added. New claims 41-99 are essentially the same, in scope as the claims pending in the PCT application. They have been rewritten in a form more in accordance with U.S. practice and eliminating multiple dependencies.

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment into the file of the subject U.S. patent application, prior to the calculation of the filing fee, and prior to an examination of the application on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 9, 2005
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